



**U.S. Department of Justice
Federal Bureau of Prisons**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Contact: Office of Public Affairs
202-514-6551

Inmate Death at FCI Ashland

WASHINGTON, D.C.: On Thursday, December 3, 2020, inmate James Velez tested positive for COVID-19 at the Federal Correctional Institution (FCI) Ashland in Ashland, Kentucky, and was placed in medical isolation. On Saturday, December 12, 2020, Mr. Velez was transported to a local hospital for further treatment and evaluation due to hypoxia and weakness. On Monday, December 28, 2020, Mr. Velez, who had long-term pre-existing medical conditions, which the CDC lists as risk factors for developing more severe COVID-19 disease, was pronounced deceased.

Mr. Velez was a 61-year-old male who was sentenced in the Southern District of Indiana to a 327-month sentence for Armed Bank Robbery and Using a Firearm During a Crime of Violence. He had been in custody at FCI Ashland since May 6, 2015.

FCI Ashland is a low security facility that currently houses 969 male inmates.

The Bureau of Prisons will continue to provide daily updates and information on actions related to COVID-19 at www.bop.gov/coronavirus/index.jsp.

Additional information about the Bureau of Prisons can be found at www.bop.gov.

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